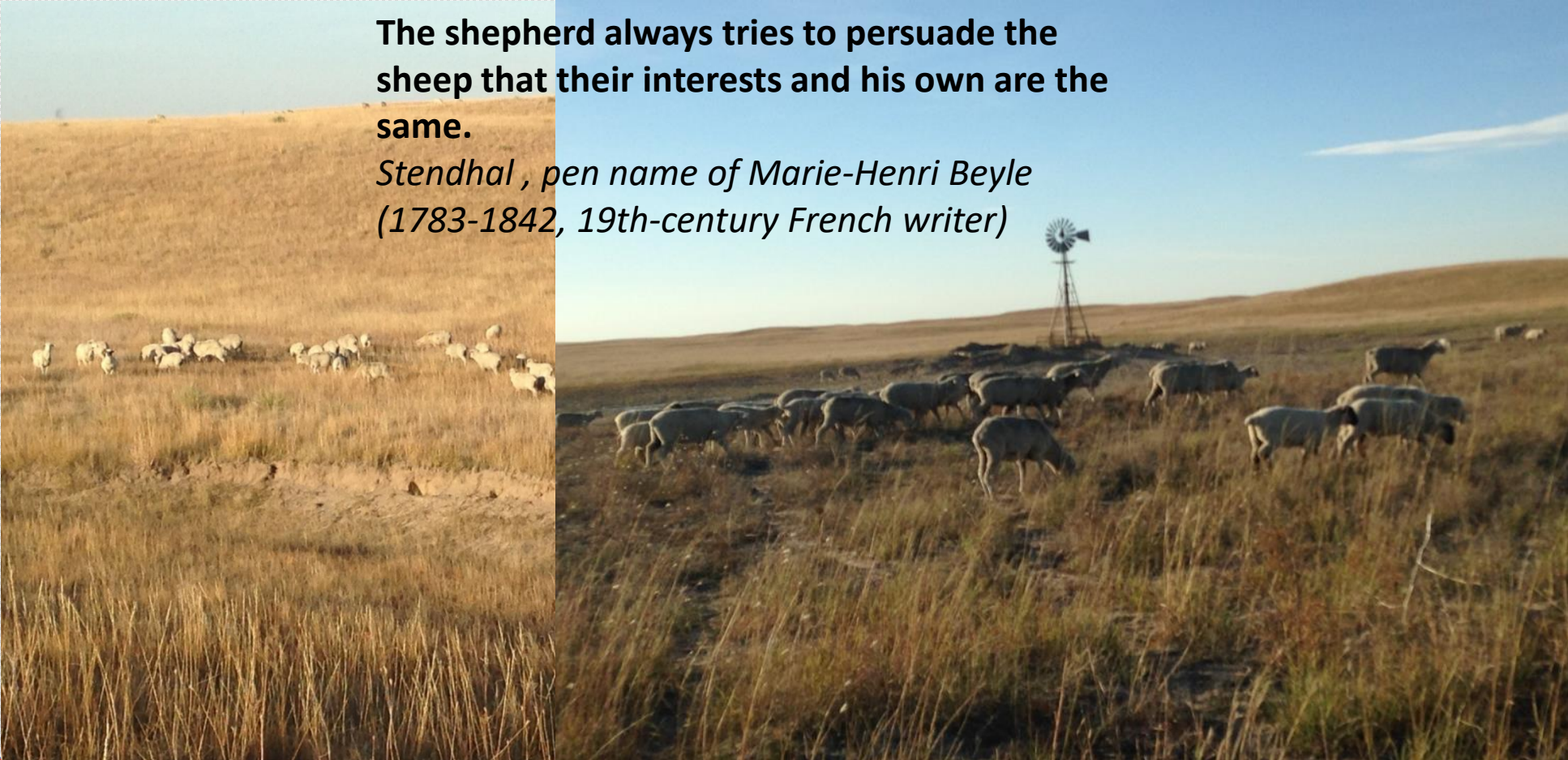


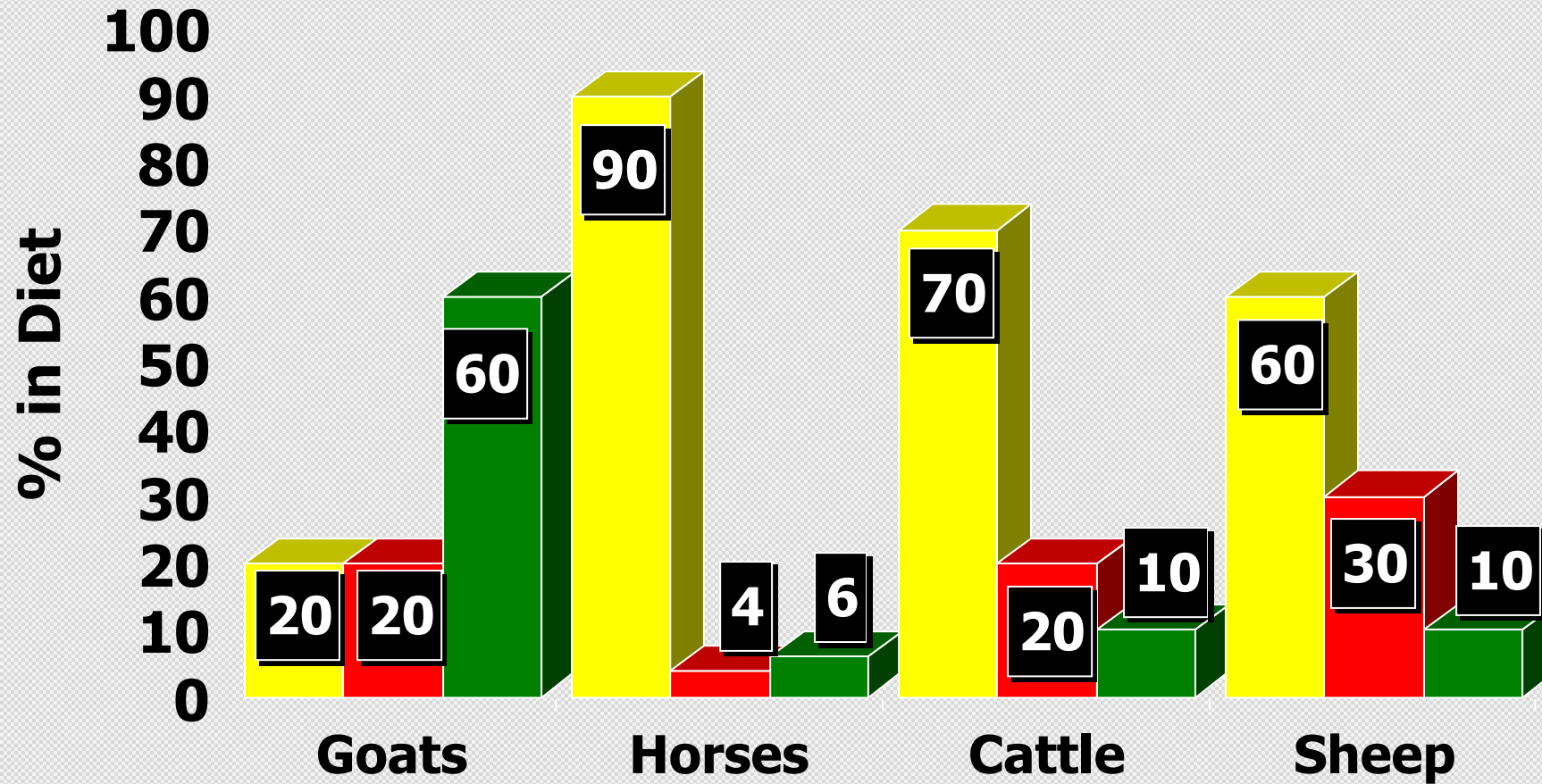
# Adding Small Ruminants to Your Operation



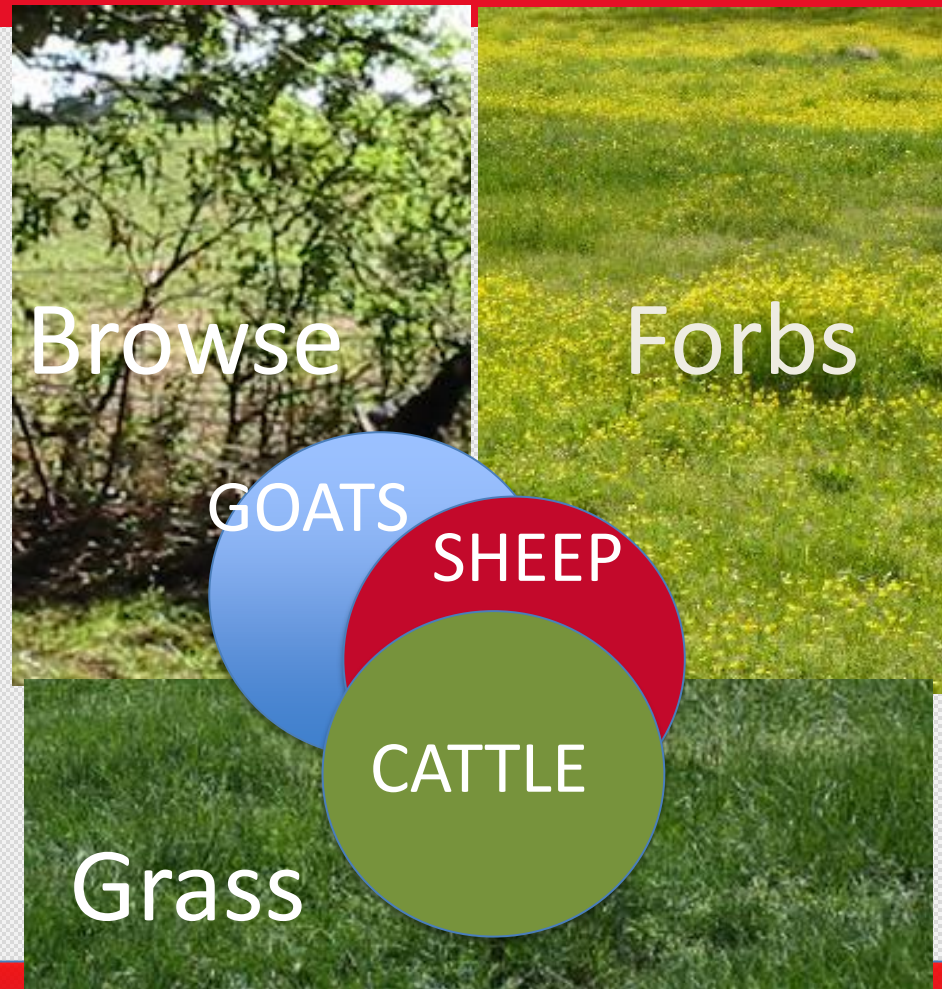
**The shepherd always tries to persuade the sheep that their interests and his own are the same.**

*Stendhal , pen name of Marie-Henri Beyle  
(1783-1842, 19th-century French writer)*

# Species Variation in Grazing Patterns



# Multispecies Grazing Preferences



# Sheep & Goats Prefer Different Plants Than Cattle



Browse shrubs, trees, vines



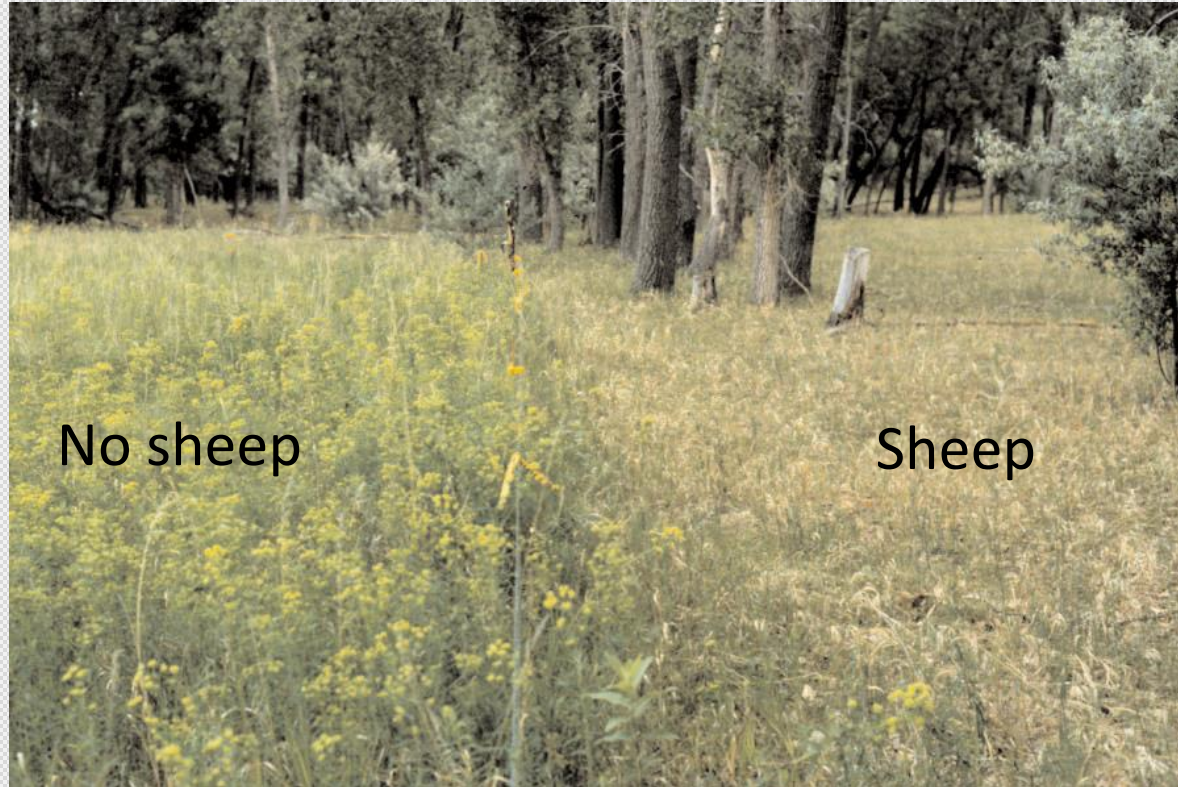
Grass



Forbs (weeds) broadleaf



# Leafy Spurge Control



Notice Any Difference?

*This fence line contrast provides an excellent example of the control that can potentially be achieved with multi-species grazing. Spurge densities on the left are inhibiting the Production of desirable grasses and drastically reducing the pasture's value to a cattle producer. On the right side of the fence, sheep are being used to reduce, then maintain, a significant reduction in leafy spurge densities, resulting in a pasture that can once again be utilized for cattle grazing.*

# Adding Small Ruminants to Your Operation

- \$133,875 from lambs( 950 x \$148.75)
- \$80,000 cost of Aged Ewes
- \$26,670 depreciation per year 3 year life
- Shepherd salary range \$12,000 to \$35,000  
1000 ewes per shepherd
- \$95,205 (\$12,000 shepherd) / 1000 ewes
- \$95.20 per ewe

# Adding Small Ruminants

- Other costs
  - Vet Costs
    - \$2.60/ewe
  - Ram replacements
    - \$5.28/ewe
  - Salt and Mineral Costs
    - \$5.99/ewe
- $\$95.20 - \$13.87 = \mathbf{\$81.33}$  or **81,330/1000ewes**

# Obstacles to Small Ruminants

- Care and management are different
- Fences that hold cows will not hold small ruminants
  - Hire shepherd or add electric fence to conventional fence
- Predators can be a problem
  - Use guard animals